EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION ANNEXES: INTRODUCTION

Purpose

This section provides an overview of the Emergency Support Function (ESF) structure, common elements of each of the ESFs, and the basic content contained in each of the ESF Annexes. The following section includes a series of annexes describing the roles and responsibilities of Federal departments and agencies as ESF coordinators, primary agencies, or support agencies.

Background

The ESFs provide the structure for coordinating Federal interagency support for a Federal response to an incident. They are mechanisms for grouping functions most frequently used to provide Federal support to States and Federal-to-Federal support, both for declared disasters and emergencies under the Stafford Act and for non-Stafford Act incidents (see Table 1).

The Incident Command System provides for the flexibility to assign ESF and other stakeholder resources according to their capabilities, tasking, and requirements to augment and support the other sections of the Joint Field Office (JFO)/Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) or National Response Coordination Center (NRCC) in order to respond to incidents in a more collaborative and cross-cutting manner.

While ESFs are typically assigned to a specific section at the NRCC or in the JFO/RRCC for management purposes, resources may be assigned anywhere within the Unified Coordination structure. Regardless of the section in which an ESF may reside, that entity works in conjunction with other JFO sections to ensure that appropriate planning and execution of missions occur.

Table 1. Roles and Responsibilities of the ESFs

ESF	Scope
ESF #1 – Transportation	Federal and civil transportation support
	Transportation safety
	Restoration/recovery of transportation infrastructure
	Movement restrictions
	Damage and impact assessment
ESF #2 – Communications	Coordination with telecommunications industry
	Restoration/repair of telecommunications infrastructure
	Protection, restoration, and sustainment of national cyber and information technology resources
	Oversight of communications within the Federal incident management and response structures
ESF #3 – Public Works and Engineering	Infrastructure protection and emergency repair
	Infrastructure restoration
	Engineering services, construction management
	Critical infrastructure liaison
ESF #4 – Firefighting	Firefighting activities on Federal lands
	Resource support to rural and urban firefighting operations
ESF #5 – Emergency Management	Coordination of incident management efforts
	Issuance of mission assignments
	Resource and human capital
	Incident action planning
	Financial management

ESF	Scope
ESF #6 – Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services	Mass care Disaster housing Human services
ESF #7 – Resource Support	Resource support (facility space, office equipment and supplies, contracting services, etc.)
ESF #8 – Public Health and Medical Services	Public health Medical Mental health services Mortuary services
ESF #9 – Search and Rescue	Life-saving assistance Search and rescue
ESF #10 – Oil and Hazardous Materials Response	Oil and hazardous materials (chemical, biological, radiological, etc.) response Environmental safety and short- and long-term cleanup
ESF #11 – Agriculture and Natural Resources	Nutrition assistance Animal and plant disease/pest response Food safety and security Natural and cultural resources and historic properties protection and restoration Safety and well-being of pets
ESF #12 – Energy	Energy infrastructure assessment, repair, and restoration Energy industry utilities coordination Energy forecast
ESF #13 – Public Safety and Security	Facility and resource security Security planning and technical and resource assistance Public safety/security support Support to access, traffic, and crowd control
ESF #14 – Long-Term Community Recovery	Social and economic community impact assessment Long-term community recovery assistance to States, local governments, and the private sector Mitigation analysis and program implementation
ESF #15 – External Affairs	Emergency public information and protective action guidance Media and community relations Congressional and international affairs Tribal and insular affairs

ESF Notification and Activation

The NRCC, a component of the National Operations Center (NOC), develops and issues operations orders to activate individual ESFs based on the scope and magnitude of the threat or incident.

ESF primary agencies are notified of the operations orders and time to report to the NRCC by the Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS/FEMA) Operations Center. At the regional level, ESFs are notified by the RRCC per established protocols.

ESF primary agencies notify and activate support agencies as required for the threat or incident, to include support to specialized teams. Each ESF is required to develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) and notification protocols and to maintain current rosters and contact information.

ESF Member Roles and Responsibilities

Each ESF Annex identifies the coordinator and the primary and support agencies pertinent to the ESF. Several ESFs incorporate multiple components, with primary agencies designated for each component to ensure seamless integration of and transition between preparedness, response, and recovery activities. ESFs with multiple primary agencies designate an ESF coordinator for the purposes of preincident planning and coordination. Following is a discussion of the roles and responsibilities of the ESF coordinator and the primary and support agencies.

ESF Coordinator

The ESF coordinator is the entity with management oversight for that particular ESF. The coordinator has ongoing responsibilities throughout the preparedness, response, and recovery phases of incident management. The role of the ESF coordinator is carried out through a "unified command" approach as agreed upon collectively by the designated primary agencies. Responsibilities of the ESF coordinator include:

- Preincident planning and coordination.

- Maintaining ongoing contact with ESF primary and support agencies.

- Conducting periodic ESF meetings and conference calls.

- Coordinating efforts with corresponding private-sector organizations.

- Coordinating ESF activities relating to catastrophic incident planning and critical infrastructure preparedness, as appropriate.

Primary Agencies

An ESF primary agency is a Federal agency with significant authorities, resources, or capabilities for a particular function within an ESF. A Federal agency designated as an ESF primary agency serves as a Federal executive agent under the Federal Coordinating Officer (or Federal Resource Coordinator for non-Stafford Act incidents) to accomplish the ESF mission. When an ESF is activated in response to an incident, the primary agency is responsible for:

- Orchestrating Federal support within their functional area for an affected State.

- Providing staff for the operations functions at fixed and field facilities.

- Notifying and requesting assistance from support agencies.

- Managing mission assignments and coordinating with support agencies, as well as appropriate State agencies.

- Working with appropriate private-sector organizations to maximize use of all available resources.

- Supporting and keeping other ESFs and organizational elements informed of ESF operational priorities and activities.

- Executing contracts and procuring goods and services as needed.

- Ensuring financial and property accountability for ESF activities.

- Planning for short- and long-term incident management and recovery operations.

- Maintaining trained personnel to support interagency emergency response and support teams.

Support Agencies

Support agencies are those entities with specific capabilities or resources that support the primary agency in executing the mission of the ESF. When an ESF is activated in response to an incident, support agencies are responsible for:

- Conducting operations, when requested by DHS or the designated ESF primary agency, using their own authorities, subject-matter experts, capabilities, or resources.

- Participating in planning for short- and long-term incident management and recovery operations and the development of supporting operational plans, SOPs, checklists, or other job aids, in concert with existing first-responder standards.

- Assisting in the conduct of situational assessments.

- Furnishing available personnel, equipment, or other resource support as requested by DHS or the ESF primary agency.

- Providing input to periodic readiness assessments.

- Participating in training and exercises aimed at continuous improvement of response and recovery capabilities.

- Identifying new equipment or capabilities required to prevent or respond to new or emerging threats and hazards, or to improve the ability to address existing threats.

When requested, and upon approval of the Secretary of Defense, the Department of Defense (DOD) provides Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) during domestic incidents. Accordingly, DOD is considered a support agency to all ESFs.

ESF COORDINATING, PRIMARY, AND SUPPORT DESIGNATIONS

Table 2. Designation of ESF Coordinator and Primary and Support Agencies

Agency	#1 - Transportation	#2 - Communications	#3 - Public Works and Engineering	#4 - Firefighting	#5 - Emergency Management	#6 - Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services	#7 - Resource Support	#8 - Public Health and Medical Services	#9 - Search and Rescue	#10 - Oil and Hazardous Materials Response	#11 - Agriculture and Natural Resources	#12 - Energy	#13 - Public Safety and Security	#14 - Long-Term Community Recovery	#15 - External Affairs
USDA			S		S	S		S		S	C/P	S		P	S
USDA/FS	S	S	S	C/P	S	S			S				S		
DOC	S	S	S	S	S		S		S	S	S	S	S	S	S
DOD	S	S	S	S	S	S		S	P	S	S	S	S	S	S
DOD/USACE			C/P	S	S	S		S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
ED					S										S
DOE	S		S		S		S	S		S	S	C/P	S	S	S
HHS			S		S	S		C/P	S	S	S			S	S
DHS	S	S	S		S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	P	C
DHS/FEMA		P/S	P	S	C/P	C/P		S	C/P	S				C	P
DHS/IP/NCS		C/P										S			
DHS/USCG	S		S	S				S	P	P			S		
HUD					S	S								P	S
DOI	S	S	S	S	S	S			P	S	P/S	S	S	S	S
DOJ	S				S	S		S	S	S	S		C/P/S		S
DOL		S			S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		S	S
DOS	S				S			S		S	S	S			S
ACHP											S				

C = ESF coordinator   P = Primary agency   S = Support agency

Note: Unless a specific component of a department or agency is the ESF coordinator or a primary agency, it is not listed in this chart. Refer to the ESF Annexes for detailed support by each of these departments and agencies.

Agency	#1 - Transportation	#2 - Communications	#3 - Public Works and Engineering	#4 - Firefighting	#5 - Emergency Management	#6 - Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services	#7 - Resource Support	#8 - Public Health and Medical Services	#9 - Search and Rescue	#10 - Oil and Hazardous Materials Response	#11 - Agriculture and Natural Resources	#12 - Energy	#13 - Public Safety and Security	#14 - Long-Term Community Recovery	#15 - External Affairs
DOT	C/P		S		S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		S	S
TREAS					S	S								S	S
VA			S		S	S	S	S					S		S
EPA			S	S	S			S		C/P	S	S	S	S	S
FCC		S			S										S
GSA	S	S	S		S	S	C/P	S		S	S				S
NASA					S		S			S					S
NRC			S		S					S		S			S
OPM					S		S								S
SBA					S	S								P	S
SSA						S							S		S
TVA			S		S							S		S	S
USAID								S	S						S
USPS	S				S	S		S			S		S		S
ARC			S		S	S		S			S			S	S
CNCS			S											S	
NVOAD						S									
NARA											S				
HENTF											S				
DRA														S	

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